

Allen (P. W.)



ECLECTIC MEDICINE:

THE LESSONS OF ITS PAST AND THE DUTIES OF ITS FUTURE.

ANNUAL ADDRESS,

BEFORE THE

ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

DELIVERED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER, ALBANY, JAN. 15, 1868.

BY PAUL W. ALLEN, M. D.,

Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York

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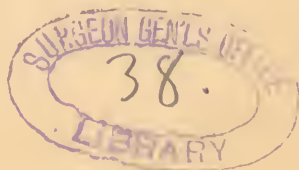
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OF THE
ECLECTIC MEDICAL SOCIETY

OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK, 1868.

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C. S. TOTMAN, M. D., Syracuse.

ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York :

Once more we are assembled, gathered from every section of the Empire State, to take counsel together upon the highest interests of our noble profession. We come together upon this Sixth Anniversary of the Society, under circumstances of peculiar prosperity and encouragement, to exchange the courtesies of a generous fraternity, to encourage each other in the rightful discharge of duties, to learn some new facts which may be useful to us in the discharge of our vocation as physicians and surgeons, and to consult generally upon the interests of the members of the profession to each other, and to that public to which our life-long services are devoted.

We propose to speak to you, in the hour of this anniversary allotted to us, on ECLECTIC MEDICINE : THE LESSONS OF ITS PAST, AND THE DUTIES OF ITS FUTURE.

Among all the diversified duties of human labor, no employment can be more responsible than that of the physician. To us is entrusted, in good faith and without reserve, the care of that member of the household upon whom has come the suffering, the anxiety, and the peril of disease. To us all look for relief, for safety, and for life.

"He was our old family doctor." Thousands have repeated these words, and the words thus spoken have brought up afresh many memories of tender trusts, of hours of danger and doubt, of returned health and reason, and of the mingling again of the sick mother, father, brother, sister, or dear little one, in the enjoy-

ments of healthful life, and restored activity and happiness. A grateful testimony do we often hear, as we go into the villages of our early homes, to the skill, and kindness, and faithfulness of that "old family doctor." And if he were faithful and true; if he were daily industrious to know all that belonged to his profession, and did serve his generation well and truly, and above the dictates of an inordinate selfishness, who is entitled to more honor? Who deserves a better remembrance?

Let us aspire to be honorably remembered; yes, more, to be respected and beloved while we live. Most frequently, indeed, the physician is not the man of large wealth; for he is brought so constantly in contact with the necessities and afflictions of others, that he gives a large share of his manly heart and educated brain to others. In the busy, earnest cares of his daily life, he has not time even to think of mining stocks and bank shares, or of investments in mercantile or manufacturing enterprises. The care of his patients, the study of his profession, the duties and endearments of home; these are his centres of interest and of hope; and if, beyond these, and his country and his God, he dare have anything else to love, we must declare that, according to our acquaintance with many a physician, it is that pet, favorite horse who has borne him so faithfully for many a weary mile, in sunshine and in storm, and whose every motion is just right in his eyes.

We are willing to give to others the fame of the forum, of the pulpit, of the press; and others may strive for the politician's office and honor and perquisites; for the graceful and grateful reputation of the man of letters, or of the artist; for the merchant's wealth, the warrior's glory; or for the inventor's reputation, or the world-wide name of him who spans the ocean with telegraph wire; or those who dart across the mighty width of the Atlantic with the swift wings of the *Henrietta*, the *Vesta*, and the *Fleetwing*! We grant to all these the various fames, honors, and emoluments which they may rightly claim, while we claim for ourselves only the respect due to the skillful, faithful, and beloved physician. Our care is the care to bring back lost health; and the poet well says:

"Nor love, nor honor, wealth, nor power,
 "Can give the heart a cheerful hour,
 "When health is lost."

And Cicero, the orator of orators, well says: "In nothing do men so nearly approach to the gods as in giving health to men."

Gentlemen: We appreciate our high mission; and in the hour before us let us direct our thoughts to a consideration of some of the methods by which we may make our profession, and ourselves as members of that profession, still more useful. We would do our duties better than ever; we would be more worthy of confidence, and esteem and honor. How may we be thus worthy? How may we best attain more knowledge, more usefulness, more influence?

Here assembled is the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York—a brotherhood of Physicians who, many of them, twenty years ago, honestly came to the conclusion, from observation, study and reasoning, that the commonly received system of medicine, denominated allopathy, was not the best system; that far more efficient remedies for the cure of the sick than those used by that practice had been discovered; that bloodletting was the letting out of life; that the giving of mercury was the giving of a most deleterious poison; that the exhibition of antimony was a wasteful depression of vital power; that the giving of such powerful and irritating purgatives, day after day, in fevers and inflammations, as would kill a well man, would surely kill a sick one; that to opiate a man, or a child, hour after hour, was to hide the real features of the disease, to make him weaker when he came out from that stupefaction, and perhaps to fasten upon the brain some disease induced by the well known tendency of opium to produce congestion of that organ; that almost this whole system of depletion, and stupefaction, and poisoning, was unscientific in theory, utterly opposed to the hygienic laws of the system, and dreadfully fatal to the sick.

Many of us were educated in this self same system of allopathy, and we were slow to question its teachings; slow to doubt its practice at the bedside. The centuries past had contributed to make this system. Wise men of many ages, and all their teachings as to inflammation and fevers and the nature and symptoms of the various diseases, had educated our brains, and our hearts too, to have confidence in its doctrines and remedies. We asked ourselves, as we saw the failures of this system in typhoid and other fevers, in rheumatic and other inflammations, in dysentery, in cholera, in scarletina, and in many other diseases, both acute and chronic, if it could be that such men as Cullen and Hunter, and him whom we would call the Webster of British Medicine—Thomas Watson—were mistaken? If it could be that Velpeau and

Louis, of Paris, who seemed to carry to the ultimate the diagnosis of surgical and medical diseases, were yet unacquainted with the true theory of surgery and the true practice of medicine? If it could be that Warren, of Boston, and Hoosac, of New York, and Wood, of Philadelphia, did not know the best agents for the cure of disease? Our experience at the bedside, and the failures we saw made, led us to distrust them all, as to the remedies they employed; and when we came to study other remedies, and to test their power, we arrived at the inevitable conclusion, clear as noon-day, that these fathers in medicine had been mistaken, and we had been mistaken; and that we had studied a system which was not a system of true science; that it was unsound in theory and destructive to life in practice. We proved this, and great was our satisfaction to receive a better practice; and so we propose further to speak of

ECLECTIC MEDICINE, THE LESSONS OF ITS PAST, AND THE DUTIES OF ITS FUTURE.

First of all, let me congratulate you on the present *status* of the American Eclectic System of Medicine. That a new system of medicine should, in less than thirty years, have attained such a prominence and influence, is in itself, the highest evidence of its efficacy. For hundreds of years previous to 1835, it could scarcely be said that there was any intelligent opposition to allopathy. Indeed that system was unquestioned. It was not only the system, but it was the *only* system. SAMUEL THOMSON had announced the great practical truths that we must sustain the vital powers; that stimulants and not depletion is the true theory of medicine; that fever is a protest of wrong in the system, and that we must help fever to eliminate disease, by relaxation and stimulation. His great error was the rejection of all cathartics; and yet his sweating and stimulating processes, many times broke up fevers and arrested inflammations with magic power and rapidity. His doctrine of sustaining the vital powers is prevailing more and more, and brightening many pages of medical and surgical science. Late in life he said to a friend: "I have used some very unpleasant medicines, awfully unpleasant—cayenne and lobelia; but cayenne is the purest stimulant I know of, and lobelia the best relaxant I know of. I hope my successors will find pleasanter medicines, and I know they will; but the great doctrines of stimulating the vital powers and promoting the secretions, and thereby eliminating

disease can never die ! Calomel and bloodletting men will soon despise, but those principles will live forever." Who will not say that Dr. Thomson was right, and that these principles will live forever ! He established these doctrines, and he was the first successful innovator upon allopathy. If he were exclusive and did use too few remedies, he was wonderfully successful in many diseases ; if he abjured all cathartic medicines, his opponents erred ten times as much by their abuse ; if he were bigoted, we must remember that he was persecuted and imprisoned without mercy, by those who to-day would be far wiser had they been taught at his feet.

"Seven cities of Greece claimed Homer dead,

"Through which the living Homer begged his bread."

As Horace Greeley well said, in his speech at the recent commencement of the Eclectic Medical College of the city of New York. "The very stones with which martyrs are stoned in one generation, are used in the next to build them an eternal monument.

We have still living in New York, another great reformer in medicine, Dr. WOOSTER BEACH. He has published more works than almost any reformer ; and these exerted wide-spread influence throughout the country. He brought to the notice and use of the profession quite a number of very valuable indigenous remedies ; he introduced a new treatment for cholera, and dysentery, and scrofula ; and he gave us numerous and excellent formulæ. For these reasons, and because he was a liberal gatherer of medical truth from every source, he is entitled, more than any other man, to the title of the *Father of Eclectic Medicine*.

The lamented T. V. MORROW, the father of Eclectic surgery—the teacher and author—was his student, and established this system in the mighty West. The large classes that now annually graduate from the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati, were commenced by him. We are told that at the first session there were six professors, giving six lessons daily of one hour each, to *one student*. How has the little one become a thousand !

Our early physicians were, some of them, converts from the prevailing system ; whilst others obtained their knowledge of practical medicine by attendance upon our schools, and by reading the works just alluded to. They had brought against them the organized opposition of the so-called regular profession throughout the country ; and the power of the press and the law, and all the

prestige of medical authority was sought against them. But the fact that they soon established colleges in Cincinnati, Worcester, Rochester, Petersburg, Macon and Philadelphia is evidence that our system had extensively secured the common sense convictions of the American people in its favor.

But in any reform, its friends are at first wanting in organization. In fact, until within the last eight years, there was no legal State Society of Eclectic Physicians. Under such circumstances, it is no wonder that some of these collegiate enterprises failed. But we have now colleges in Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, and we have State societies, mostly incorporated by legislative enactment, in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, Michigan and Illinois, and movements for the formation of other State societies are under such auspicious management and progress as to promise, within a very few years, an intelligent and powerful society in every State of the American Union.

We now have well sustained monthly journals devoted to eclectic medicine, in Cincinnati and Philadelphia, and the *American Eclectic Medical Review*, published in New York, is believed to be increasing in circulation more rapidly than any journal yet issued. The contributions to these journals are generally of a very creditable character, both as to their literary style and as to their practical usefulness. It is very encouraging to know that the recent attempts, as in Vermont, to secure acts of incorporation for State societies, has met with but little opposition; and also to know that our journals are rapidly rising to a remunerative support. We know of no medical journal in France, Great Britain, or America which, in its typographical neatness, or in the excellence of its contents, excels the *American Eclectic Review*.

Other very encouraging signs of our progress are seen in the constant appearance of new works, devoted to the practical and daily duties of our profession, and in the increased popularity of our system of treatment everywhere. Few, indeed, who study our works ever return to allopathy, or adopt homœopathy. Occasionally, some one of our physicians, surrounded by peculiar influences, will be entirely silent as to his method of practice. This, as he thinks, serves his present interest; but converse with him about his remedies, and we find that he principally uses those discovered and developed by eclectics, and that he has in his study, a good array of those works on the *materia medica* which have

been issued during the last twenty years, by the authors of our school. Even here is a triumph for our remedies, because he proves them, adopts them, and trusts to them in the emergencies of disease, in preference to all other agents. This is, indeed, evidence of their inherent excellence, even in the hands of those who are so wanting in manliness that they choose to keep out of sight the very elements to which they owe their success. They are willing to silently get from eclecticism all they can, without giving any public credit to that system which has made them what they are. Perhaps they forget that such a course is a very doubtful illustration of human gratitude; perhaps they forget that those to whom they administer their remedies would be valuable and influential friends, and would extend the benefits and blessings of this system, if they only knew to what remedies they owed their own recovery. Such men forget that the system and society and humanity have claims upon them, entirely superior to any consideration of their own personal advantage. But there are but few such men. Eclectics generally, almost universally, are true to their principles, and ready at all times to give a reason, yea, many reasons, for the faith that is in them; and it is this positive faith, this outspoken frankness, this manifest desire to exert an aggressive influence against that which they conceive to be wrong, and in favor of that which they think is not only right, but a vast blessing to all humanity, that has given us our success, and will continue to. And eclectics are rapidly learning to unite, in every rational method, for promoting and extending their principles. In truth, it is wonderful that, unassociated and unorganized as our practitioners have been in past years, and scattered, and frequently with but few medical friends near them, their principles and practice are so uniform.

We have lost heretofore, wonderfully lost, in the extent of our public influence by our want of organizations. But each man, acting by and of himself, has developed his own individuality, and that individuality has, from the convictions of each investigator and observer, arrived at the same results as to the true doctrines of medical science and the remedies to be preferred.

We challenge the history of the world to produce the instance of so large a number of intelligent men coming to the same conclusions and adopting the same essential platform of belief without having been educated and disciplined by organization.

If such be this fact of the past, what is its encouraging lesson

to us? Once organize these thousands, and concentrate their energies and efforts, and we shall speedily establish the complete triumph of Eclecticism throughout this country and the world.

Reforms always go slow at first, but if true reforms they always go. Our country has not seen many reforms, for we are a youthful nation, and we have no one completed reform in all our history. Even that oldest, the temperance reform, started so long ago, does not seem quite perfected to any man who observes the various styles of walking in the streets of New York. But in England we can find many illustrations of true reforms; reforms in government which are not unlike our own present reform in medicine. Indeed the history of England, for a hundred years, has been a succession of them. Slowly the people were indoctrinated, and then the nation's heart warmed up in reference to the slave trade, and it must stop in 1806; in reference to the Catholic emancipation, and in less than thirty years it was accomplished, in 1829. Next came the reform bill of 1831, which, it will be remembered, enlarged the representation of the English country members of Parliament from 94 to 159, introduced uniformity in the qualification of voters, and extended the elective franchise from corporations for privileged bodies to the citizens at large—not all citizens indeed, but a far larger number than heretofore. To thus enlarge the elective franchise required years of discussion among the people, and when the crisis came it was a terrible blow to the power of the King and the aristocracy. The House of Lords declared this bill should never pass, and King William swore it should never receive his signature. The King and the Parliament both said that to pass the bill would be to acknowledge and enlarge the rights of the people and it must be resisted. But the mighty multitude of England, the people, were excited and determined, and, to use the words of another, "England was in peril, till one night, while the turbulent multitude were swaying to and fro without the house of Parliament, their shouts and murmurs now and then borne to the ears of the members, Macauley arose, and in a thrilling speech, thundered on his astonished adversaries the prophetic words, '*through* Parliament or *over* Parliament this bill will pass.'" It passed, and the throne of England stopped rocking on its base.

Gentlemen: I need not tell you that the throne of England is again rocking on its base. There is a public sentiment, in England and out of England, to-day which imperatively demands the

granting of enlarged rights. This sentiment has not shaped itself into exact historic form, but it requires no large knowledge of history and of human nature to see that three things must be secured. First : The enjoyment of the elective franchise by every adult male in the United Kingdom of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Second : The abolition of a government church, and the equality before the law of all, whether Episcopalians, Dissenters or Catholics. Third : A system of universal public education. English statesmen are discerning these impending demands, and that they may not be forced to adopt them *too* quickly, by power outside and among her own people, they seem wonderfully willing, all at once, to consider the nature and extent of the Alabama claims. These claims will be paid, and these reforms will prevail, and their influence will go to make up a new chapter of the progressive history of the British Empire !

And just so it is with our medical reform in America to-day. The convictions of the people, whenever and wherever they have tried our system, are with us ; and our organizations will ere long be so numerous and so perfected, and our means of influence so extensive in every state, that we may even now say, *through* allopathy, or *over* allopathy, this reform will pass. It will pass *over* it, in the hands of eclectics, if they are true to themselves. If not true to themselves, our remedies will be appropriated gradually by others, without any credit to us ; and we decried as vile quacks ; and American eclecticism be declared illegitimate medicine. But this cannot be. Our convictions are too established, our reasonings too well studied, our experience too well tested, our profession too large in numbers, our State organizations too numerous, our own self-respect too vital, our journals too widely circulated, our authors and books too much appreciated, the people already too indoctrinated and impressed with our success, our own discovered remedies too well known here and in Europe, and, we may add, our opponents already too wavering and divided as to calomel and bloodletting, and as to whether in medical practice they should stimulate or depress the vital powers, to admit of a doubt as to the triumph of American eclecticism. Through eclecticism and over allopathy, this reform will pass !

How may we further perfect this system and thus make triumph valuable? And what shall we do to speedily and completely accomplish a result so earnestly desired in our heart of hearts? We devote the remainder of this hour to a consideration of this subject.

Let me suggest, first of all : We must perfect a system of organizations. We have referred to the utility of these, but what organizations are needed and practicable ? It must occur to all that we need city or county organizations throughout the country. Almost any county is a field of sufficient size to include physicians enough to form just as good a society as can be formed. In such societies every man feels obligated to do his share to maintain the interest and value of the meetings ; and the work growing out of this responsibility makes every man grow. He blesses others, but he benefits himself twice as much as he does others ; for the Roman adage, “ *qui docet, discet*,”—he who teaches learns—is most eminently true. In a society of from twelve to fifty members, every man feels that he can have time to put in his testimony to the subject under debate, or make inquiries. In a large organization, subjects must often be referred to committees, and many subjects have to be dropped before all can have the opportunity to discuss them, or make inquiries concerning them. County organizations are practically working ones, in which every man rapidly improves—becomes more varied in his knowledge, and more exact in his knowledge. County organizations are springing up in many states, and they should be formed in all localities where even six physicians are willing to pledge themselves to the high purpose of mutual improvement. Wherever they do it they assume a position at once, which challenges public approbation, and gains personal patronage and advantage to every member who is worthy and faithful. Society says : These men are not merely individual reformers, with personal crotchets and crude notions ; but they are an earnest, associated, intelligent body of gentlemen, meeting every month to increase their usefulness to us ; and we hail and recognize them as such ; and we will sustain by our patronage, this organized zeal, intelligence and professional worth.

State societies are equally useful. Though they meet but once or twice a year, they often receive and discuss the essays previously read at the county or district societies, and secure the publication of the most valuable of them, for the benefit of every medical man in the State ; they secure similar essays and discourses for their own meetings, and for publication ; they secure co-operation and friendliness among their members ; they secure a legal incorporation as a State society, and eventually a State library ; they assist worthy young members in the profession to secure good locations for practice ; they animate and influence all to

higher attainments; they organize and sustain an influence in favor of valuable medical journals and medical colleges; their members form very pleasant acquaintances with each other, and exchange views in personal conversation, or in debate, in reference to new diseases and new remedies. They make themselves known as individuals, and their system of practice known to the whole public, through those reports of their meetings in the newspapers, which go into every household in the State. Surely the mere statement of such advantages should lead every State to have such an organization, and every enterprising physician to belong to it; to do all the good he can in it, and to get all the good he can from it.

This society is an eminent example of the usefulness of such an organization. One hundred and two physicians had recorded their names as members of this society previous to our present meeting, men residing in every section of the State, and most of them practitioners of at least ten years experience. With a legal incorporation as a society we are, as to our recognized lawful rights, as individual physicians, and as an organization, the peers of any other medical men or medical association. And we are not only equals before the law, but the State of New York has, this year, for the first time, published the Annual Transactions of the Eclectic Medical Society of the State of New York. This is certainly an advantage to us of the highest value. All the discussions, reports of cases, and papers, presented in every district society in the State, as well as those in the State society, are thus embodied in one volume, to a copy of which every member in the society is entitled. No man's usefulness is now limited to his own district society; but every member can contribute to the common improvement and practical success of every other physician in the entire State, and hundreds of communities be blessed with the results of this increased professional knowledge. This plan of publishing the annual transactions of the allopathic, homœopathic, and eclectic State medical societies, in separate volumes, is worthy of that breadth of public opinion and official legislation, and that desire to promote the general good of all her citizens, which so eminently characterizes the Empire State. Each system of medical practice has now its annual exponent, for the examination of intelligent legislators and citizens; and eclectics, believing their principles and their practice pre-eminently good, are deeply grateful for an open field and a fair fight. With such equal advantages, if we do not achieve a perfect triumph, we are not worthy of it, we

shall not deserve to triumph. We regard the holding of two meetings of this society in each year, now revived in our present gathering, as of the highest importance. Our annual meeting must of necessity be largely devoted to the choice of officers, and the transaction of business relating to the general interests of the society; but this can all be transacted on the first day, and thus the second day of the annual meeting, and both days of the semi-annual, can be principally devoted to the discussion of the discoveries and improvements in medicine and surgery among our members, and in the profession generally.

A National Eclectic Medical Society should be formed at once. We want a uniform standard of medicinal preparations throughout the country. We want—we very greatly need—a *Pharmacopœia*, which should be prepared by medical men selected from the several states. You are aware that our own and several other state societies, have appointed committees to join those of other states, to perform this undertaking; but most of the states should be united in this work, in order that its formulæ may be adapted to the treatment of all the diseases incident to all the different sections and climates of our common country, and be put forth under the sanction of a National society. This work is already in active progress, but the different committees should meet, compare their labors, suggest improvements and submit their labors to the approval of, and secure the sanction of an American Eclectic Medical Society. Another labor of this national society should be through a committee, annually to select all the valuable matter from each of the state societies' annual publications, and issue them in an annual volume, along with the essays and proceedings of the national society itself. As it is, we are all working for a few. We benefit only the fifty, or one hundred, or two hundred who belong to some state organization. The plan proposed, carried out, would interest, instruct and greatly gratify, several thousand practitioners. Now, so far as the profession of the whole country is concerned, "our work is but waste."

Another duty is to sustain medical colleges. We must educate men for the eclectic profession, or we must give them into the hands of other colleges to be educated. If we have no colleges, these young men will study and graduate at Bellevue, and Long Island, and New York University, and like institutions all over the land. They will go where our principles are unknown; where our remedies are only imperfectly known; where measures of

depleting the system and exhausting the vital powers are taught and practiced ; where allopathic professors will say to their classes, as did one of them recently, in referring to our agents : “ these agents may be good, but, gentlemen, they are used by irregulars, and I advise you to have nothing to do with them.”

Nor is this all. The students of all eclectic physicians, and those of homœopathic physicians, are already, by a vote of the New York State Medical Society, at their meeting held at Albany, on the 5th day of February, 1867, practically excluded from all allopathic medical colleges. They may, indeed, attend those colleges, but they will not hereafter be allowed to graduate from them, let their acquirements be what they may. Dr. Hutchison, of Brooklyn, Professor of Surgery, in the Long Island College Hospital and President of the State Society, in his inaugural address (we quote from the *Medical Record*, an allopathic journal published in New York), “ called attention to the fact that some schools had granted diplomas to students in the offices of irregular practitioners, upon the plea that they could not go behind what the law had seen fit to recognize. He held that a school was simply *empowered*, not obliged to confer degrees, and that a faculty *may*, not must, recommend a candidate.”

Dr. Brinsmade “ recommended that in the issue of college circulars it be distinctly stated, that certificates of study from irregular practitioners will be disallowed, and that they will confer no degree upon any one avowing his intentions to practice medicine in accordance with any exclusive system.” The report in the *Medical Record* further says : “ The suggestion regarding the course to be adopted by colleges was presented as a resolution and carried.”

Here, then, we have the decision of the New York State Medical Society that no man shall be graduated from one of their colleges who studies medicine with any physician not an allopath. The law of New York directs that all graduates shall have “ been regularly engaged in the study of physic and surgery with some respectable practitioner for the term of three years.” It supposes that any man who thus studies with any respectable practitioner of any school, and who complies with the other specified conditions for graduation, shall be entitled to a diploma. The New York State Medical Society have, as it seems most clearly to us, by their recent action just referred to, formally voted to deny to such students their rights under the laws of New York in two

ways. First: By disallowing any certificate of study which such students may present to any college faculty, if that certificate come from an "irregular practitioner"—that is, from an eclectic, or a homœopath, or any other man who is not an allopath. Secondly: These colleges will confer no degree upon any one "avowing his intention to practice medicine in accordance with any exclusive system"—that is, upon any one who is not committed to practice allopathy. Thus do these colleges, endowed by the State for the benefit of all those who would study medicine, impose restrictions, as to those who should graduate, entirely unauthorized by law, and contrary to the entire spirit and purpose of the law. Some of these colleges had heretofore granted diplomas to others than allopaths, "upon the plea," as Professor Hutchison expressed it, "that they could not go behind what the law had seen fit to recognize;" but the proposition now incorporated into the official action of the State society is to deprive every young man of his right to graduate under the laws of New York, by imposing the additional conditions that his term of pupilage must be with an allopathic practitioner, and that he must be an allopathic practitioner himself.

Thus, gentlemen, do these institutions, endowed in part by the State, for the equal benefit of all seeking medical knowledge, and for which you and your fathers have been taxed and paid your taxes, now propose through the action of a State Society to practically close their doors against any young man who, from his own convictions of right, studies with you, and against any young man who studies with your intelligent homœopathic brother.

The homœopathic and eclectic families of New York and Brooklyn now pay, and have paid for years, more than one-half of the millions that have built up the colleges and hospitals and infirmaries of New York and Brooklyn, and now these professors and the State Medical Society of New York turn round and say to the people of those cities: Your sons cannot graduate from the institutions which you have endowed unless they study with allopathists. We believe in no liberty of views in medicine; we are right; all others are wrong; we care nothing about your convictions of right as to methods of medical practice; we care nothing about your rights as citizens and taxpayers; we have the power in our hands, and we will use it to deny to any man a graduation from our halls of medical science unless you deny your medical

faith and make yourself our servant, to be molded, like *papier mache*, into any model we propose.

We now only show up this wrong, and make our protest, as citizens of the State of New York. But in due time, we believe that eclectics and homœopathists will have all their lawful rights in such of the colleges, hospitals and infirmaries as have been endowed and supported by the public purse; or, that they will demand and secure the establishment and support of such a number of colleges and hospitals and infirmaries as shall be proportionate to their proportion of endowments and taxes. Public justice can do no less than this. Now *might* makes right; but the time is not far off when *right is might*.

But we have here to ask (and we would that this question could reach every eclectic physician in the United States) do you want your sons and your students taught in such medical colleges? By men, too, whose ideas of medicine are not only so wrong in your estimation, but by men who would rob you of your civil rights, condemn you as quacks, and consign your name to infamy as illegitimate irregulars, whilst they secretly use your remedies, or openly speak of them in the medical press, and in medical colleges, and in medical associations, without acknowledging that any such men as Thomson, Beach, Morrow, Newton, King and Merrill ever existed? It would be to insult you to suppose that you would wish to support such faculties of medicine. We can pursue this subject no further. Your views of the treatment of inflammatory and febrile and most other diseases, are radically opposed to allopathy. You believe your views correct; you have proved your practice, and you have no desire to encourage a system which you believe to be wrong in theory, and wasteful of life in practice. We have our own colleges, in different States, chartered by the rightful "powers that be," and taught by men who have devoted many years to the profession; and to further endow these colleges and encourage their faculties and fill their halls with students, we believe you will consider to be your highest privilege.

Another prime duty of eclectic physicians is to sustain and contribute to medical journals. To every physician the medical journal is an imperative necessity, keeping him constantly informed of the new discoveries in every branch of medical knowledge. But to eclectics they are of still greater value, for many of our remedies are only partially tested. What one physician can have

a variety of cases sufficient to test all these remedies? Surely, no one. But one physician who has cases which seem to indicate alumin, must test that remedy, and report results through the medical journal; and his brother practitioner, who has cases which seem to require ampelopsin, should try that, and give his report. Thus may we secure a number and variety of provings, which shall be of untold value to every physician; which shall sift our list of concentrated remedies, and so inform us that we shall know what to prize and what to reject. From some statements in reference to the trade of certain parties in New York and Cincinnati, engaged in the manufacture of our "concentrated remedies," we judge that nearly one hundred thousand dollars worth of them were last year sold in Europe alone; and by them we are to be judged, and our reputation established, or our system condemned by the medical savans of Great Britain, France and Germany. Many of these remedies we have proved, and they are established; whilst others have not received our own full endorsement here at home; for we have not, as a profession, successfully tested them. They are on trial as yet. What a matter of honor, as well as usefulness, is here involved. And yet these provings cannot be known, and the real place of these remedies be established, except through the united labors of individual physicians, testing them and reporting results through the medical journals.

Again, we must have, as already suggested, an eclectic pharmacopœia. As this matter now is, there is neither science for ourselves nor scarcely safety for our patients. There is quite a difference in the strength of some of the tinctures, as prepared by the United States Pharmacopœia, and as prepared by the eclectic dispensatory; and it only by the use of much care that we avoid mistakes.

But this is not all; we soon shall have a large list of concentrated tinctures. The profession is rapidly becoming convinced that the tincture, when rightly prepared is, in a very large proportion of cases, the very best preparation of medicine. But the relative proportions of alcohol and water, to be used in such tincture, to extract the properties of the different plants, is to be very different from what it has been. The old proportions of one-half alcohol and one-half water, generally adopted for most tinctures by the United States pharmacopœia is to be set aside, as entirely unscientific and impracticable; and a proportion of each must be used for each plant, according to the relative solubility of the

active principle of each plant, in water and alcohol. It belongs to us to establish, by a national organization, as before suggested, an eclectic pharmacopœia, which shall furnish formulæ for the preparation of these concentrated tinctures, of ordinary tinctures, and of saturated tinctures. We greatly need an official list of strong tinctures, for the pocket case of both city and country practitioners, which shall be as strong and as pure as it is possible to obtain; tinctures at least four times the strength of the present official tinctures of the United States pharmacopœia. They can be prepared without heat, and preserve the exact properties and aroma of the plant far better than any fluid extract. They are clear and beautiful preparations, but they require choice materials, experienced manipulation and powerful machinery. But when thus prepared, they are beyond all value to every practitioner. When we have a pharmacopœia which shall establish the formulæ for the preparation of these, and all other medicinal preparations, more perfectly than the United States pharmacopœia, and more perfectly than the present eclectic dispensatory, we shall have far better remedies; and we shall all understand each other, as to remedies, in our reports of cases. It will be a complete and uniform official guide for eclectic druggists throughout the country, in the preparation of their remedies; and great improvements can be introduced in reference to all classes of preparations. Our remedies will be not only more uniform, and be official; not only more compact and convenient; not only more efficient and choice, but formulæ should be introduced, whenever possible, by which efficient, pleasant medicines shall be introduced. This is not merely a matter of taste, but of the highest practical importance. We have no right to dose our patients with nauseous mixtures when, with more study, pleasant remedies and more efficient ones can be used. Our professional success demands this, because unpleasant medicines are not, in very many instances, taken regularly; not unfrequently they are greatly neglected; and if all here could now give their testimony, we should have the evidence that sometimes they are thrown away.

Society has arrived at a refinement and civilization when a large majority of adults will not continue to take from day to day, unpleasant medicines; and when parents will not consent that their little children shall be drugged with them. Let us recognize this fact. It seems entirely probable to us that homœopathy owes three-fourths of its patronage and popularity to pleasant medicines.

And from our own observation of, and experiments with, the *materia medica*, we believe, that by directing special attention to the preparation of compounds, nearly all of them can be made palatable. This feature should receive special attention in the preparation of our National Pharmacopœia.

We believe, too, that two-thirds of all the articles and compounds of the allopathic, and very many of the eclectic, *materia medica*, should be expunged from the Pharmacopœia; whilst only the eminently valuable and for the most part pleasant, agents and compounds should be admitted.

We must develop our own indigenous *materia medica*, and introduce whatever is of value, from both the allopathic and homœopathic systems. As eclectics, we have introduced a great number of exceedingly valuable agents from the fields and forests of this country; and every plant and flower of the field looks up to us saying: Can I be useful to you in healing the sick? One of the far-famed pulpit orators of this state, Henry Ward Beecher, has beautifully suggested that if he had no other evidence of the benevolence of deity, than the flowers which beautify the fields, it would be enough. They teach us that God meant to please man, gratify his taste—by these objects of beauty. But this is not the only lesson of flowers. They are not only things of beauty, the minor poetry of nature, and the smiles of God, but they are utilitarian. They are for use—sacred and precious use in restoring the sick, and healing our physical infirmities. We would perfect, to the utmost, a system of remedies in which shall be united the bounty of God and the science of man.

Finally: We think it to be the duty of all eclectics, to make our system known to the people; expose the errors and bigotry of our opponents; conciliate and enlighten all who are seeking medical truth; modestly but firmly maintain our own rights in the profession, and through the people; and do all we can to establish our system.

Our reasons and consciences forced us to adopt this new system. We did not believe in the depleting, poisoning and reducing measures and remedies of the prevailing system; and we did believe in rallying and restoring the vital powers to throw off disease; and in agents, mostly vegetable, which chiefly acted in harmony with the physiological action of the system, and which were efficient. We have depended too, largely depended, for success, upon instructing our patients to obey physiological laws. We

have been practical teachers of hygiene in almost every community. Twenty years ago, physicians generally were silent to their patients in reference to hygienic laws. They bled them, and vomited them, and physiced them, and opiated them, and then so poisoned them with mercury that they would be liable to very frequently need their services ever afterwards ; but as to informing them how to live, and how to avoid disease—that was entirely unprofessional. Why it is scarcely two years ago that we saw the announcement in the Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter, that a new professorship had been established in one of the schools of that once famed, but now failing centre of medical education—a professor of hygiene—the first ever appointed in this country. Twenty years ago last autumn, he who now addresses you was invited to the professorship of physiology and pathology in a southern medical college. I accepted the appointment on the express condition that the professorship should include hygiene ; and it was most cheerfully acceded to. We do not wish to have this honor taken from the eclectic profession and eclectic colleges ; for all our practitioners have ever largely depended upon hygiene for the cure of their patients. In very many cases, especially nervous diseases, we have prescribed much hygiene and little medicine—and not unfrequently, two anecdotes to one antidote, and two puns to one pill.

In forming ourselves into a new organization, we took the name eclectic—choosing the good from all—and this name and principle is good for all time ; for every new development of remedies ; and it broadly asserts a liberal and scientific platform. It tests the remedies of allopathy, homœopathy, hydropathy, and every other *ism* and *pathy* ; and adopts with critical fairness all that is good. Eclecticism embraces, and ever will seek to embrace, all medicine which is legitimate with the reason of the impartial man of science. Such a system approves itself to the man of common sense ; it approves itself to the logic of every educated man who knows what an inductive system of reasoning is ; it approves itself to the liberal man, as opposed to the chrystallized bigotry and mouldy tyranny of the past ; and we ought to make our views known to the entire community. Tracts, clearly defining our views, and stating our success, should be published and distributed into every family ; and we should seek to diffuse our principles by popular lectures, and through the press. The people ought to know, too, that we have a literature—one of

which we may be proud—a literature which embraces, as we judge, more works on the *materia medica*, during the last twenty years, than have been published by the allopathists of both this country and England together. The truth is that eclectics are the progressive scientific party in medicine; and we think that we are correct in saying that no position in reference to methods of treatment, generally adopted by eclectics, within all these thirty years past, has been successfully controverted. Our opponents are now violently contending among themselves as to many of their remedies. A large party of medical leaders in England are now denouncing bloodletting; and Dr. Ives, of New Haven, in a recent essay before the State Society of Connecticut, radically opposes the use of calomel, and totally denies its long supposed specific action upon the liver; and Prof. Hodges, of the Massachusetts Medical College, recently stated that “mercury was not so much as to be named as a medicine. The world does move, though every new thing is to them an innovation. Why, the discovery of the circulation of the blood was at first pronounced by them as a vile error; and vaccination was an infernal mischief. And just so in regard to the numerous medicinal plants and the invaluable preparations from them which the American eclectics have introduced into practice. Twenty years ago we introduced podophyllin as an innocent and efficient agent to act upon the liver and as an alterative; and gelseminum as a febrifuge and antispasmodic. They have been given to hundreds of thousands of patients, and they have been a benefaction to them; and hundreds of articles have been published concerning them in our medical journals. Just now the allopaths are beginning to learn their value, and in the State Convention in this city, in February last, the attention of the profession was called to them, but not one word was said as to their discovery or extensive use by the eclectics. Precisely the same is true in regard to at least fifty other invaluable agents discovered by us. Our discoveries have all been first neglected, then opposed, and the discoverer loaded with infamy if possible; and they never acknowledge any of our remedies until compelled to use them by public opinion; and they ever refuse the fraternity and fellowship of the profession with all who are progressive.

Eclecticism, in the spirit of hopeful progress, welcomes all, at once, to investigation, then to proof; then to acceptance or rejection, as the new doctrine deserves. As a teacher of the theory and practice of medicine in the Eclectic Medical College of the

city of New York, we have again and again advised our students to pursue the treatment recommended as the best, until something better is discovered ; but to be on the most active look-out for anything which is discovered ; at once to prove it, and, if better, immediately adopt it. Such is the spirit of eclecticism always and everywhere.

Allopaths generally do not know our doctrines or our remedies. They are educated in other principles and other remedies, and their views are so fixed that not one in ten of them could make a good eclectic physician. Our place and duty toward them is, generally to let them alone ; to avoid all personal controversies and party controversies, except when justice compels us to controversy ; but everywhere let us proclaim our own principles. They openly declare themselves our enemies, and we must never throw ourselves into the hands of our enemies and place ourselves at their mercy, by desiring their consultations. We have men in our own societies who are so versed in every branch of medical and surgical and chemical knowledge, and so versed in the specialties of the profession, that we have not the slightest occasion to call in the assistance of those who would destroy our system and our school in an hour, if they could.

How differently have we been treated by homœopathists ! For the most part, they certainly have treated us like gentlemen. They have let us alone. Neither by controversy nor by attempting to debar us from an equality of privileges under the law, have they sought to injure us. Their conduct has said : we depend on the merits of our system, and we have no occasion to fight any one unless in self-defence, and to correct misrepresentation. And in some of their published works, as in Hale's "New Homœopathic Provings," they have given full credit for all our discoveries in regard to remedies.

Thus have we endeavored to point out the lessons of its past, and the hopes of the future, of eclectic medicine. And that future is bright ; we need only to be true to ourselves ; we must organize thoroughly, everywhere ; we must, every man of us, be an aggressive missionary to convince the people ; we must sustain our medical colleges and journals ; we must establish hospitals, embracing every advantage of modern science and new remedies, hospitals that are, indeed, homes for the sick, where all can be "tenderly cared for."

Pursuing such a course right onward, and working and waiting, we shall do our duty and have an approving conscience; we shall secure the influence of woman, without whose all-prevailing power and aid even our nationality might have been lost in the recent struggle. We shall have friends, too—friends with money and friends with brains—who will assist us to organize and energize our public progress, and our colleges and journals and hospitals.

Gentlemen of the Eclectic Medical Society of the state of New York : To this good and great work, would we, in this anniversary hour, and in this temple of public justice and humanity—this legislative hall of the most populous and most influential of all the states of the American union—dedicate ourselves anew. It is our high mission, day by day, and year after year, to contribute toward the perfection of a system of medicine, liberal in its principles, founded in the impartial use of facts from every source, and blessing all mankind.



